

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



March 23, 2004

Westerly man is charged with trafficking in crack cocaine

A federal grand jury in Providence has charged **Ryan Bilby**, of Westerly, with trafficking in crack cocaine.

The Office of the United States Attorney, Westerly Police Chief Stephen Baker, and Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, jointly announced a one-count indictment, which the grand jury returned on March 17.

The indictment charges Bilby with possessing with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack cocaine) on February 2. Bilby, DOB 3/07/81, of 53 North Woody Hill Road, Westerly, pleaded not guilty at his arraignment yesterday before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin, and was ordered detained pending trial.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The statutory maximum penalty for the offense charged in the indictment is life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine, with a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that are based on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Westerly Police conducted the investigation, with assistance from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch is prosecuting the case.

-30-